



6.3 Involuntary and Voluntary Childlessness

Quote

- “ Children are the cloth of the body.
Without Children, you are naked.”
- What does this mean to you?

Quote

- This means that a man's wealth is measured, in part, by the number of children he has
- A woman's value to her husband is determined by her ability to bear children.
- To some people a marriage without children is seen as incomplete

Psychological Impact of Involuntary Childlessness

- Occurs when a couple or individual wants to have children and cannot
- This state is generally the result of one of two factors:

Psychological Impact of Involuntary Childlessness



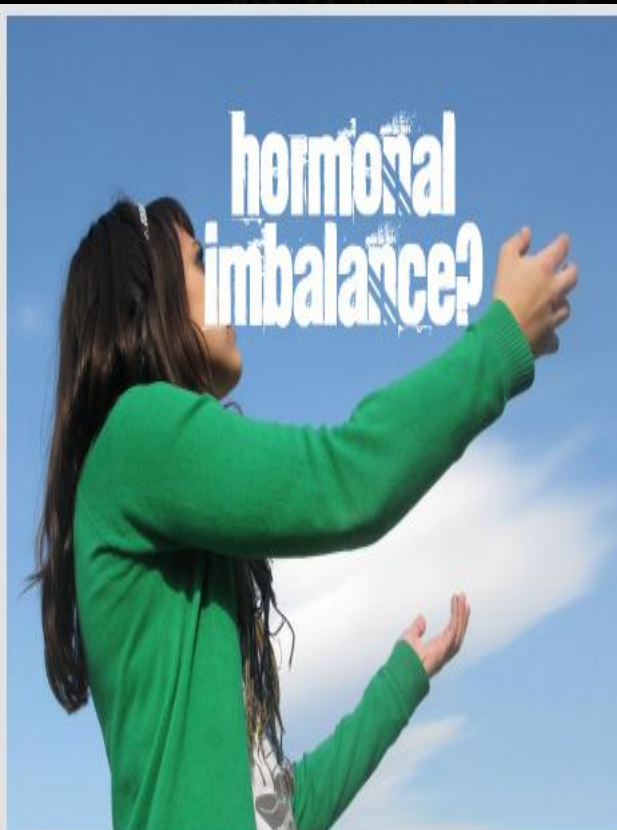
**Not having
a mate**

Psychological Impact of Involuntary Childlessness



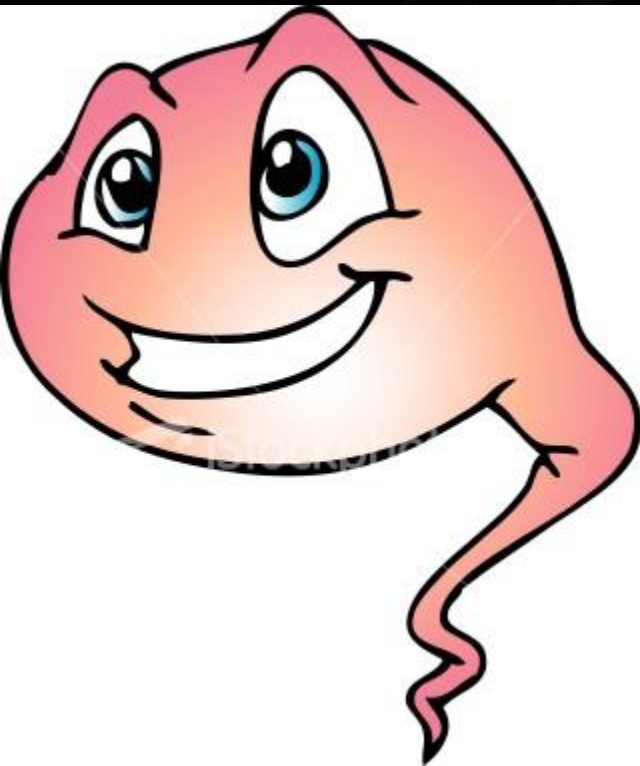
Psychological Impact of Involuntary Childlessness

- 40-50% of infertility problems is a result of a physical problem



Psychological Impact of Involuntary Childlessness

- Men



IMPOTENCE



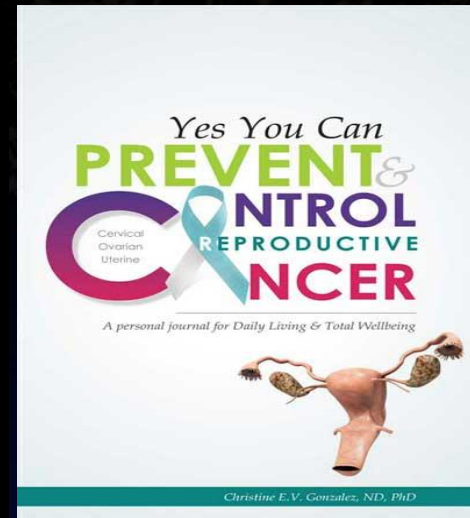
Dam, I have
Hormone deficiency

Case Study

- 1999 German Sociologists
- 52 interviews with women and men who had undergone treatments for infertility
- Burden of undergoing these treatments can be divided into three categories

1. Physical Effects

- Side effects from fertility drugs

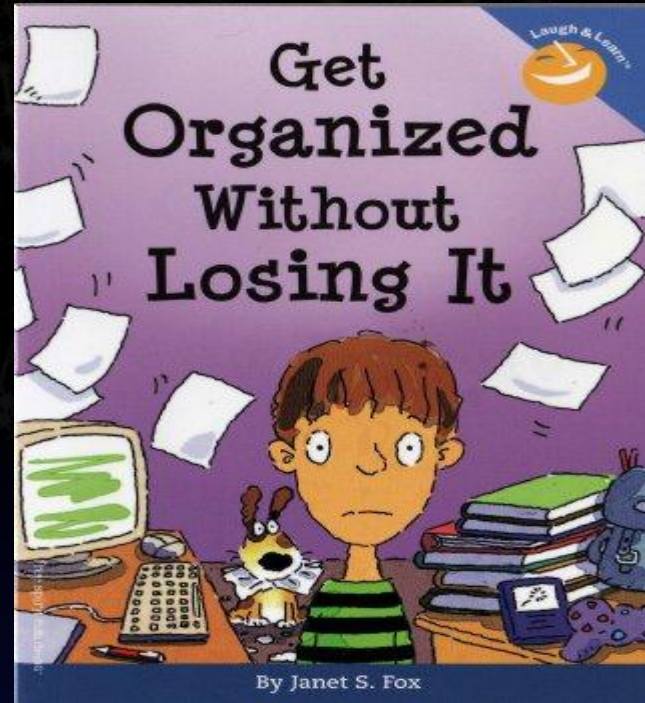


**Increased Irritability
to reproductive cancer**

2. Objective Burdens



Major Expenditure
of Time



Organization
Required

2. Objective Burdens

- Couples must have intercourse, or have reproductive treatments at a specific date each month
- Also organize the rest of their lives around these dates
- Working women had to use all of their holidays for one year for one treatment

3. Subjective Psychological Strain

- Emotional relationship between partners is tested
- Treatment often results in personal interests being given up entirely, which leads to stress, anxiety and depression

Feelings of Involuntary Childlessness

- Guilt
- Sadness/Depression
- Loss of fulfilling a dream
- Hope
- Anger / Isolation

Overcoming Infertility

- Over to you.....